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Brown, Turner Support Carter's Wiretapping Proposal

By Lee Lescaze

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Defense Secretary Harold Brown and Central Intelligence Agency Director Adm. Stansfield Turner appeared before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee yesterday to support the administration's proposal requiring court warrants for electronic surveillance in foreign intelligence cases in the United States.

They told Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's (D-Mass.) Subcommittee on Criminal Laws and Procedures, however, that it was important to retain a provision enabling the government to obtain warrants in certain instances even when there is no allegation of criminal activity by the target of the surveillance.

John Shattuck, director of the

American Civil Liberties Union Washington office, and Morton Halperin, a former National Security Council aide whose telephone was tapped by the Nixon administration, testified against this so-called "noncriminal standard" that would permit surveillance when U.S. security is thought in jeopardy although there is no allegation of criminal activity by the target.

Brown said the Defense Department has sought electronic surveillance of activity by "foreign powers" in this country six times since the Carter administration took office.

The surveillance was approved five times by the interagency review panel that considers all such requests, and was turned down once, he testified.

Brown said U.S. citizens were not involved in any of the six cases.

Brown also outlined the procedures

he would establish to carry out the surveillance proposal.

He said applications for warrants could be made only by the chiefs of intelligence activities within the Pentagon and that he would require detailed backup information for each request.